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August 31, 2004

To the editor:

I was deeply moved by the way the community came together to search for young Christopher McAvoy last weekend. My sister Carol and I worked alongside countless volunteers from throughout the area. Citizens of all ages and backgrounds – from senior citizens and parents to children on their bikes – banded together and volunteered day and night in the most inclement weather to find Christopher and return him to his family. Unfortunately, the results of our searches confirmed our worst fears.

Police, fire, and rescue workers from all over Wayne County, particularly our Livonia safety officers, as well as the Salvation Army and countless businesses and organizations all donated time, money, and supplies to the search effort. An Amber Alert was issued, and calls from people wanting to help poured into police dispatch centers. Many people searched until the early hours of the morning, when thunderstorms drove them indoors and continued until Christopher's body was found early Sunday morning.

While we all hope and pray we never have to rally together for such a purpose again, it is enormously reassuring to know our community stands always ready to provide help and support in times of such tragedies.

I pray that the McAvoy family can find some measure of peace and solace with the knowledge that their community will see them through this time of profound grief and sadness. May God bless us all.

Sincerely,

Senator Laura Toy  
6<sup>th</sup> District  
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